## **Abstract**

Compounds of formula la or lb

$$\begin{bmatrix} R_2 & SH & SH & SH & R_2 \\ N & CH - C & CH_2 - X - A - X - CH_2 - C - CH - N & R_3 & R_5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} R_2 & SH & R_2 \\ R_3 & R_1 & R_3 & R_5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} R_2 & SH & R_2 \\ R_1 & R_3 & R_5 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} R_2 & SH & R_2 \\ R_1 & R_3 & R_5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} R_2 & SH & R_3 & R_5 \\ R_1 & R_3 & R_5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_{5} - X - CH_{2} - C - CH_{2} - CH_{3} - R_{1} - R_{3} - R_{2} - CH_{2} - R_{3} - R_{1} - R_{2} - R_{2} - R_{3} - R_{1} - R_{2} - R_{3} - R_{1} - R_{2} - R_{2} - R_{3} - R_{1} - R_{2} - R_{2} - R_{3} - R_{1} - R_{2} - R_{3} - R_{2} - R_{3} - R_{1} - R_{2} - R_{3} - R_{2} - R_{3} - R_{1} - R_{2} - R_{3} - R_{3} - R_{2} - R_{3} -$$

wherein A is an (n + 1)-valent aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, araliphatic or aromatic radical and n is an integer from 0 to 5,

E is an (m + 1)-valent aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, araliphatic or aromatic radical and m is an integer from 0 to 3,

X is -O-, -COO- or -CHR<sub>4</sub>-, with R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> together forming an ethylene group,

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are, each independently of the other, hydrogen or methyl,

R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen, or R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> together form an ethylene group,

and R₅ is a monovalent aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, araliphatic or aromatic radical,

are highly reactive curing agents for epoxy resins and yield cured products having improved resistance to chemicals.